



Lebanon Situation Report

September 15, 2023

Background

Information about the ongoing violence and economic crisis in Lebanon is summarized in Anera's last [Situation Report \(August 2023\)](#).

Overview

On September 7, clashes in Ein El Hilweh camp resumed after weeks of relative calm. The fighting is between Fatah and armed Muslim Youth groups in the camp, and local sources reported use of explosives and heavy shooting.¹ Though groups agreed on a ceasefire on September 11, a video from after the agreement shows continued gunshots.² This renewed violence comes only a few weeks after the previous clashes at the start of [August](#), compounding trauma for Ein El Hilweh's residents.

Violence in Ein El Hilweh

Ein El Hilweh is Lebanon's largest and most crowded Palestinian camp, with some 80,000 refugees living in the camp and its surrounding areas.³ After fighting from the previous escalation stopped on August 3, UNRWA reported that armed officials remained present, keeping residents from returning to their homes and, in some cases, maintaining a presence in UNRWA schools.⁴ On August 18, UNRWA briefly suspended services in Ein El Hilweh, protesting the continued presence of gunmen in its schools and facilities. School buildings also sustained damage, and armed groups occupied eight UNRWA schools, leading to uncertainties about the start of the school year.⁵

September 7th clashes reportedly cover a wider area than those in August, with four UNRWA schools at the center of the fighting. The Associated Press reported at least six people killed and 50 injured, while UNRWA's reports say the fighting killed 11 people and injured at least 100 more.⁶ As of September 13, The Palestine Red Crescent Society

¹ [Clashes between Palestinian factions resume in Lebanon's Ein el-Hilweh camp | Al Jazeera](#)

² [Gunshots heard in Lebanon despite cease-fire deal | AP News](#)

³ [Ein El Hilweh camp profile | UNOCHA](#)

⁴ [Report #5 on the situation in Ein el Hilweh camp | UNRWA](#)

⁵ [UN suspends services in Palestinian refugee camp in Lebanon over gunmen inside its facilities | AP News, Fighting intensifies in Lebanon's Ein el-Hilweh camp despite truce talks | Fatah News | Al Jazeera](#)

⁶ [Top Hamas leader in Beirut in a bid to stop clashes at Lebanon's largest Palestinian refugee camp | AP News; Report #7 on the situation in Ein el Hilweh camp | UNRWA](#)

(PRCS) in Lebanon reported 15 lives lost.⁷ On September 10, artillery fire from the fighting groups hit two Lebanese armed forces bases, injuring five Lebanese soldiers.⁸ Five shelters, including a mosque and two UNRWA schools, are estimated to hold over 1,000 internally displaced persons, and the camp lacks the space to open any additional shelters.⁹

Truce discussions began September 10 at the head of the General Security Directorate's office in Beirut, including Palestinian faction leaders. Lebanon's National News Agency published a statement the same day that the Joint Palestinian Action Committee reached a ceasefire agreement, but fighting continued into the following day.¹⁰ Hamas leader Moussa Abu Marzouk arrived in Beirut on September 12 to meet with Lebanese officials, pushing for an end to the continuing clashes that followed the call for ceasefire. Lebanese officials condemned the continued violence and its detrimental effect on Ein El Hilweh and all of Lebanon, stressing that "Palestinian and Lebanese authorities [have a responsibility] to resolve this."¹¹

Livelihoods & Education

On September 13, the Lebanese Education Ministry met with foreign donors to discuss funding for the school year, which is set to begin in October. While the cabinet approved a \$50 million budget in August to assist education costs, donors have not transferred the funds yet, and this amount will only keep schools open for a few months.¹² Lebanese students, including Palestinian and Syrian refugee students, have only been able to access sporadic education since the economic crisis began in 2019 due to lack of school funding and teacher strikes. The average teacher salary is less than \$90 per month.¹³ Students are estimated to be one to two years behind their grade level, and for the past two years received about 60 days of teaching annually.¹⁴

In its most recent monitoring period from April through June, UNHCR states 26% of households have school-age children not in school, and six percent report children are going to work to help pay for food and rent.¹⁵

⁷ [Deadly fighting continues in Lebanon's Ein el-Hilweh Palestinian camp | News | Al Jazeera](#)

⁸ [Report #7 on the situation in Ein el Hilweh camp | UNRWA](#)

⁹ [Ibid.](#)

¹⁰ [Palestinian Joint Action Committee Ends its Meeting with a "Decisive Ceasefire Agreement" | National News Agency](#); [Gunshots heard in Lebanon despite cease-fire deal | AP News](#)

¹¹ [Top Hamas leader in Beirut in a bid to stop clashes at Lebanon's largest Palestinian refugee camp | Arab News](#)

¹² [Lebanon: New School Year at Risk | Human Rights Watch](#)

¹³ [Lebanon Emergency Response Plan 2023 | UNOCHA](#); [How the Education Ministry bypassed banks to pay its employees through OMT - L'Orient Today](#)

¹⁴ [Lebanon: New School Year at Risk | Human Rights Watch](#)

¹⁵ [Lebanon Protection Monitoring Survey Findings Q2 | UNHCR](#)

Almost 90% of households lack the money to buy essentials, and some 3.1 million people are in need of food assistance.¹⁶ To afford rent, 96% of households reported decreasing their food expenditures or buying food on credit.¹⁷

Economic Crisis

Lebanon's ongoing economic crisis continues to affect the livelihoods of refugee communities. Lebanon has the second-highest food price inflation rate in the world, according to the World Bank.¹⁸ On July 31, central bank governor Riad Salameh stepped down amid investigations from several countries. Salameh's activities as bank governor led to accusations of mismanagement and embezzlement, and he is largely blamed for the Lebanese lira losing 98% of its value.¹⁹ Devaluation of currency means people living in Lebanon rely on dollars, often sent by family members in the US and the wider diaspora, or rely on international humanitarian aid.²⁰ An official international exchange platform will be implemented in the coming weeks, while the central bank phases out its own current exchange platform amid concerns about the platform's transparency.²¹

The US government, in coordination with the United Kingdom and Canada, issued sanctions against Salameh on August 10.²² Wassim Mansour, who took over Salameh's position in August, criticized the Lebanese government for their lack of action that would provide immediate relief and rebuild productive economic sectors.²³ However, politicians have yet to finalize a \$3.1 billion rescue package deal with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), instead relying on tourism and natural gas sectors to rebuild the economy. The IMF deal would require large banks to sell their assets and carry out other necessary reforms, which would immediately assist vulnerable populations including Palestinian and Syrian refugees in Lebanon.²⁴

¹⁶ [Lebanon External Situation Report #16 | World Food Programme](#)

¹⁷ [Lebanon Protection Monitoring Survey Findings Q2 | UNHCR](#)

¹⁸ [At a Glance Global Market Outlook, July 25 2023 | World Bank](#)

¹⁹ [Riad Salameh: Lebanon's tainted central bank chief steps down | BBC News](#)

²⁰ [Four years into crisis, Lebanon's leaders hope tourism boom will help bypass reforms in IMF bailout | AP News](#)

²¹ [UPDATE 1-Lebanon central bank plans new exchange platform via Bloomberg - Al-Arabiya | Reuters](#)

²² [Press Release | U.S. Department of the Treasury](#)

²³ [Lebanon's acting central bank chief pleads for reform as crisis continues | Al-Monitor](#)

²⁴ [Four years into crisis, Lebanon's leaders hope tourism boom will help bypass reforms in IMF bailout | AP News](#)

Anera's Response

Emergency Relief

Anera worked quickly to procure and distribute essential medical supplies in Ein El Hilweh following the most recent clashes. It distributed 300 units of IV antibiotics to Saida Hospital, relocated 100 units of essential surgery medicine from Krantina Hospital to Saida Hospital, and relocated over 480 packs of hypertension medication from Americares to the PRCS clinic in Mieh Mieh refugee camp, where some Ein el Hilweh residents have relocated in recent days. Direct Relief also provided emergency health kits, which Anera will distribute to PRCS and Saida Hospital along with emergency backpacks containing medical supplies. In the past few days, we have also made distributions of goods, donated by our corporate partners in [Bekaa](#), to help families displaced by the violence.

Livelihoods & Education

Anera's education programming in Lebanon focuses on career skills for youth who may not have been able to complete their schooling. One such program is the Multi-Dimensional Employability Support Package. Its newest iteration will build on nearly a decade of past success, providing courses on employability skills, career guidance, and business mentorship and seed funding for young entrepreneurs. Anera will also partner with GIZ to provide nursing and hospitality courses and career tracks to Lebanese youth.

To combat food insecurity and provide supplemental income for 126 families, Anera's rooftop gardens program is helping to build sustainable systems for growing food in crowded urban spaces. The rooftop hydroponic gardens are designed to use less water and will allow families to grow their own produce, helping to alleviate financial stress and increase food security.